

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 09717 312107Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----026688 312108Z /64

O 312055Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4544
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 9717

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI PEPR LE IS
SUBJ: ISRAELI ARMS SHIPMENTS TO MILITIAS

REF.: BEIRUT 4345

1. DURING MY JULY 31 MEETING WITH WEIZMAN, I BROUGHT UP THE REPORTED SHIPMENT OF 122MM ARTILLERY PIECES TO THE CHRISTIANS (REFTEL). I VIGOROUSLY POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD TOLD ME THAT ONLY LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WOULD BE SENT. HOWEVER, NOW IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CHRISTIANS ARE EXPECTING ARTILLERY, WHICH IS CERTAINLY NOT LIGHT WEAPONS.

2. WEIZMAN RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THE ONLY RESTRICTION HE HAD AGREED TO WAS THAT NO TANKS COULD BE SENT. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION DURING WHICH I ARGUED THAT CONTINUED INTRODUCTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS INTO THE CHRISTIAN ARSENAL WOULD ONLY STIMULATE THE SYRIANS TO INTRODUCE MORE OF THE SAME, WEIZMAN DISPATCHED AN AIDE TO CHECK
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ON EXACTLY WHAT IS BEING SENT. THE AIDE RETURNED SHORTLY AND REPORTED THAT NO RPT NO 122 MM ARTILLERY PIECES ARE INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT SHIPMENT. I URGED HIM TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. WEIZMAN DID SAY THAT MORTARS ARE INCLUDED. WE ASSUME THAT THESE ARE 120 MM MORTARS WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE CHRISTIAN CLAIM. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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